

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, XF, IZ, IR, TU

SUBJECT: KDP REP COMMENTS ON REPORTED CLASH BETWEEN KDP-
TALBANT FORCES

1. DURING VISIT JULY 12 TO NEA/ARN, LOCAL KDP REP
VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON EARLIER REPORTS OF
MAJOR BATTLE BETWEEN KDP AND TALABANI FORCES. ACCORDING
TO KDP REP, TALABANI MET WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN AND AGREED TO
CRUSH THE PESH MERGA IN EXCHANGE FOR TITULAR LEADERSHIP IN
THE AUTONOMOUS REGION AFTER COMPLETING THE JOB. ALLEGEDLY,
TALABANI THEN TOOK HIS 700 (SIC) TROOPS INTO IRAN, CIRCLED
INTO TURKEY, AND RE-ENTERED IRAQ TO FORM THE NORTHERN HALF
OF A Pincer movement, buttressed by two, recently mobilized
divisions of Iraq regulars from the south. TURKISH KURDS
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WERE SAID TO HAVE ALERTED KDP FORCES OF IMPENDING ENCIRCLE-
MENT, WHICH ENABLED KDP TROOPS TO MEET AND DEFEAT TALABANI
FORCES. KDP REP ALLEGED THAT ACTION TOOK PLACE IN A LONG
NARROW VALLEY WHICH STRADDLES THE TURKISH-IRAQI BORDER.
ACCORDING TO KDP REP, 120 DIED AND 200 WERE TAKEN PRISONER
BY PESH MERGA.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO THE BATTLE, TALABANI REPRESENTATIVES ALLEGEDLY WENT TO LONDON TO BARTER WITH LOCAL KDP REPS FOR LIVES OF PRISONERS, ALLEGEDLY OFFERING TO TERMINATE OVER-TURES FOR SUPPORT TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE

THE PRISONERS. ENVOYS APPARENTLY FAILED TO ELICIT KDP LONDON'S INTEREST IN THE DEAL, AND IT SEEMS APPARENT THAT 200 PRISONERS WILL NOT BE RELEASED. IN RECOUNTING THIS EVENT, KDP REP STATED IT WAS OBVIOUS IRAN HAS COOPERATED WITH IRAQ BY ALLOWING TALABANI TO MOVE TROOPS ACROSS THE BORDER. EARLIER SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR TALABANI IS A KNOWN FACT, ACCORDING TO KDP REP, WHO ALSO PREDICTED THAT TALABANI WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE AN EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN, SINCE JUNE BATTLE LEFT HIM WITH ONLY 200 EFFEC-TIVES.

3. ALTHOUGH KDP REP MADE FORCEFUL PRESENTATION RECOUNTING DETAILS OF THE CLASH, HIS ALLEGATIONS OF A DEAL WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS HIS PROGNOSIS FOR TALABANI'S FUTURE APPEAR TO BE LESS THAN OBJECTIVE. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ADDEES TURN UP IN THE FUTURE. CHRISTOPHER

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